Wayside Amenities Along National Highways

1335. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been launched for providing basic wayside amenities along National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private sector too has been involved in the scheme;

(d) if so, on what basis; and

(e) the National Highways and places where such amenities are provided/ proposed to be provided in Tamilnadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) A scheme of providing passenger oriented wayside amenities along National Highways was launched under government sector and private sector financing in 1986 and 1987, respectively, wherein, the facilities of drinking water, parking areas, toilet, restaurants, rest-rooms, first aid facilities, telephone booths etc. were envisaged to be provided.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Private entrepreneurs were invited to finance and manage the facilities as per the plans to be approved by the Government. As an incentive, a retail outlet for petrol/diesel was made an integral part of the scheme with the consent of Ministry of Petroleum. However, the Ministry of Petroleum have withdrawn from the scheme since August, 1994.

(e) Way-side amenities have been provided near Sattur at Km. 76/4 of NH-7 in Tamil Nadu.

Closure of Indian Road Construction Corporation

†1336. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close down the Indian Road Construction Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the total amount of capital invested by the Government in this corporation by the end of March 1999; and

(d) the total financial loss suffered by the Corporation till the said period together with the main reasons for this financial loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Corporation had practically no work for the last about ten years and was accumulating huge losses.

(c) Paid up capital invested by the Government upto March, 1999 is Rs. 10 crores.

(d) The total loss upto March, 1998 is Rs. 508.18 crores. The main reasons were delay in payments by Libyan clients from 1986 onward because of their financial constraints resulting into borrowing by the Corporation from Government of India to repay its foreign currency loans.

Scheduled completion of super Highway project

†1337. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the highway-wise length of North-South and East- West express highways as announced by the Prime Minister;

(b) whether work has been taken up on the aforesaid scheme; if so, the details thereof indicating the progress made in this direction; and

(c) the estimated total cost of the above mentioned both express highways and by when it is scheduled to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) A statement giving details of North-South and East-West corridor project is enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) Yes, Sir. Four-laning of 220 Kms. of National Highways on corridors is under progress.

(c) The two corridors are estimated to cost about Rs. 28,000 crores. It is expected to be completed by the year 2009.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.